

Community resources

[Follow us on Twitter](#) [Check our Reddit](#) [Twitter this](#) [Digg this page](#) [Contact us on IRC](#)

courage is contagious

Viewing cable 09SOFIA389, BULGARIA: CLEANING UP MOI

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the [structure of a cable](#) as well as how to [discuss them](#) with others. See also the [FAQs](#)

Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#09SOFIA389**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
09SOFIA389	2009-07-15 14:17	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy Sofia

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.bivol.bg/wloctopus.html>

VZCZCXRO7984
OO RUEHDBU RUEHFL RUEHKW RUEHLA RUEHNP RUEHROV RUEHSL RUEHSR
DE RUEHSF #0389 1961417
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O 151417Z JUL 09
FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6184
INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE
RUEAWJA/DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHINGTON DC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 000389

SIPDIS

PASS TO EUR/NCE, INL/AAE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/14/2019

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [BU](#)

SUBJECT: BULGARIA: CLEANING UP MOI

Classified By: Ambassador Nancy McEldowney for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

¶1. (C) Summary: Interior Minister designate Tsvetan Tsvetanov told Ambassador he wanted to bring major changes to the MOI and criminal justice system and welcomed American assistance and advice. He is determined to show progress on corruption issues within the first few months of the new government and thus to establish credibility both domestically and with Bulgaria's international partners. He

and the Ambassador discussed ideas for reforms and the Ambassador handed him a report prepared by DOJ experts last year but never acted on. Tsvetanov has a track record as an honest cop; if his openness and enthusiasm to work with us is matched with effective reform of the bloated and tainted Ministry, there may be a chance to make real progress. End Summary.

¶2. (C) On July 13 GERB party chairman and Interior Minister designate told the Ambassador that the incoming GERB government is planning major reforms at the MOI and in the criminal justice system and welcomes any U.S. assistance. He recalled good cooperation with American law enforcement when he worked at the MOI as a subordinate to incoming PM Boyko Borissov and, referring to himself, said there is "no one more pro-U.S." He noted that the outgoing government had sidelined good officers who had trained with Americans, but the GERB government will move them up to responsible positions.

¶3. (C) Tsvetanov said the GERB government would undo some of the law enforcement missteps taken by the outgoing government. He focused on the need to de-politicize DANS (National Intelligence Agency) and return it to its intended intelligence role. He pointed particularly to problems with special advisor Alexei Petrov, who is "a very dangerous man." (Comment: Petrov's known criminal connections made his role in DANS highly controversial. End comment.) He pledged that DANS would again be a reliable partner for the US. A well regarded former DANS Officer, Tsvetan Yochev, is being considered to replace current DANS Chief Petko Sertov. Tsvetanov emphasized all changes would be made in consultation with American and European partners.

¶4. (C) Tsvetanov said the new government planned to show results within six months. Ambassador noted the public would be looking for clear steps in first 100 days. She urged him to move quickly but also correctly so as not to appear partisan. A good start would be to deal with people who embezzled EU money. Bringing them to justice, after so many years of impunity, would have broader positive ramifications throughout the country and in Bulgaria's relations with the EU.

¶5. (C) The Ambassador gave Tsvetanov a paper with findings and suggestions from DOJ consultations with the MOI last year. The outgoing government never acted on them. Tsvetanov said he would consider the recommendations seriously. On the suggestion for an organized crime strike force, Tsvetanov noted GERB had similar ideas. The new government was also considering establishing a panel of special prosecutors to handle serious corruption cases, and he was interested in the proposal, being prepared by our USDOJ advisor, to establish a special panel of judges for such cases. The Ambassador said we could provide a senior judge as an advisor to the panel; Tsvetanov welcomed the idea. She also noted the FBI official in charge of cooperation with Europe would be in Bulgaria in early August and could discuss training and other programs.

¶6. (C) Comment: We had an excellent relationship with Tsvetanov during his previous stint in the MOI. He was both eager to cooperate and effective in getting things done. He appears serious about reform and acknowledges the herculean task in front of him. His return to the MOI creates the basis for reform to finally begin. End comment.
McEldowney